



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**November 24, 2014**

By Master Sgt. Cornelius Mingo, 168<sup>th</sup> Wing Public Affairs

### **KC-135 orientation flight gives unique perspective of aerial refueling mission**

**EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska** — Spouses of Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing and the active-duty's 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing experienced the aerial refueling mission first-hand last month from the inside of a KC-135 boom pod.

The KC-135s here at Eielson provide mission capabilities that result in the aircraft being named the air bridge for the Pacific theater. The air refueling mission is the largest area of responsibility in the United States.

"The best part for me of the overall flight was seeing the actual refuel of the aircraft take place," said Renee Hudnall, wife of Tech. Sgt. James Hudnall, a 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing boom operator. "It was really neat to see how well they function as a crew and the expertise in communication that took place so seamlessly."

The 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is a tenant unit located on Eielson Air Force Base, which allows the Guardsmen to play a critical role in conducting mission exercises along with the 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing during annual Red Flag Alaska exercises.

"It was also a joy to see the great state of Alaska from that perspective and to spend time with both the active-duty and other Guard spouses learning how we relate to each other," said Renee Hudnall.

###

Photo Cutlines:

141016-M-DD045-001

Renee Hudnall, wife of Tech. Sgt. James Hudnall, a 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing boom operator, sits in the cockpit area of a KC-135 aircraft Oct. 16 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. She was one of several spouses to participate in an orientation flight to better understand the mission of the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing and the role her husband plays to get that mission accomplished. Photo: Courtesy of Renee Hudnall

141016-M-DD045-002

Spouses of both the 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, and 354th Fighter Wing load onto a KC-135 aircraft for an orientation flight at Eielson Air Force Base Oct. 16. This type of flight gives spouses an opportunity to see the refueling mission from a different perspective. Photo: Courtesy of Renee Hudnall